Raid on Lansdowne Draft Files Balks FBI Probe of Resister

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation's efforts to secure background information on a Swarthmore draft resister apparently were thwarted by a raid last year on the draft files at the Lansdowne Selective Service offices.

Files reportedly stolen from the Media FBI office and received at The Bulletin yesterday include a memo concerning the FBI's unsuccessful efforts to get background papers on William Stanton, 3d, of Swarthmore.

In a memorandum, Special Agent Richard A. Mazzeo said Miss Donna Bansept (misspelled Dansept in the papers), a clerical assistant at the board," advised that due to the recent destruction of many of the current files of Local Board 58, she is unable to forward any background papers regarding Bill Stanton.

Search of Remains

"Bansept stated she would search the remains of the destroyed files for any background information she may have regarding Stanton and forward this . . ."

The memorandum was dated Nov. 20, 1970. The Lansdowne draft board, at Lansdowne and Baltimore aves. was entered May 20, 1970, and 1-A classification files were destroyed by persons who said they were against the war and were "taking this action to preserve life, not property."

The vandals in Lansdowne piled the records of 30,000 young men on the floor and then poured two cans of data processing fluid over them. Even the telephone directories were ripped to pieces.

At the time, Russell Moore, district supervisor of the Lansdowne board, said all ruined records could be replaced because they are on microfilm.

William Stanton 3d

Yesterday, a Mrs. Bowen, who said she is in charge of the draft board office, and refused to give her first name, said in spite of what the FBI report said, "The destruction of files in that office last year caused no delay in our operations.

"We had everything microfilmed," she said in a telephone interview yesterday. "We've told the newspapers that many times before." Miss Bansept was unavailable for comment.

Stanton, 19, said he was not surprised that the FBI had been investigating him.

"I refused to register because I think conscription is wrong and that I shouldn't have anything to do with a system of selective slavery," he said.

"And that's a hideous crime these days.

"The only thing that surprised me was that the draft file destruction had any effect on me. The lady had said everything was microfilmed, but apparently that wasn't true. It did sort of surprise me they'd been doing so much work."

The FBI files on Stanton reported Miss Bansept said she had sent Selective Service System Form 398 to Stanton, but "she further recalled that subject responded by letter indicating that he would not register for the Selective Service. She could not recall any further information regarding subject."